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Sed omnium quæ in hominum doctorum disputatione versantur nihil est profecto præstabilius, quam plane intelligi nos ad justitiam esse natos, neque opinione, sed natura constitutum esse jus.

Tully de Legibus. Lib. I.

SIR,

I Have often thought that Mr. *D'Anvers* wants a Guide in his Politicks, as much as a Traveller that is unacquainted with his Road; for as this commonly walks, or rides till he hath loſt himſelf, ſo hath our Politician rambled from one thing to another, till he hath writ himſelf into ſuch a Labyrinth, into ſuch a Maze of Errors and Confuſion, that he knows not how to extricate himſelf. Being weary with calumniating the Miniſtry, and having brought upon him the general Contempt and Odium of his Country for ſo doing, the delirious good Man breathes a little here, and commences a Diſpute concerning our Laws, as relative to the Rules of Government, but more particularly concerning the Prerogative of the Crown; as if really the Government and Conſtitution of theſe Realms, the Power and Authority of our Sovereign were under ſome grievous Neceſſity of Inſpection, and wanted to be eſtabliſhed; as if there was ſome great Abridgment of the Liberties of the People; as if the Prerogative of the Crown had very much infringed upon them, and gain'd the Aſcendent over them, to the great Injury and Detriment of the Subjects. For unleſs this is the Caſe, why is ſuch a Field of Impertinences open'd? why any Enquiry into them? why any Diſpute about them? I ſhall therefore confine myſelf at preſent in endeavouring to prove, that the People of *England* have a Privilege equal, if not ſuperior, to the Power and Prerogative of the Crown, and that they are, as near as can be, mutual Checks upon the Sallies and Encroachments of one another. This Privilege, Sir, is the uninterrupted Freedom at the Times of Election, after the Diſſolution of Parliament, or the Death of any Member; in which Situation every Man, who hath a Vote to diſpoſe of, may freely and abſolutely give it to whom he pleaſes, juſt as his Conſcience directs him. In Conſequence of which (to uſe our Author's polite manner of Writing) every ſuch Man is a ſort of Petty King, and conſtitutes that Honourable and Auguſt Aſſembly, which provides for the Safety and Welfare of his Country, and ſecures to him and his Poſterity this glorious Freedom of Election. Than which what can be greater? what more extenſive? what comes nearer to natural Liberty itſelf? Is not this a Privilege, I ſay, of equal Balance with the Prerogative itſelf? Is not the Prerogative itſelf maintained and ſupported by it? Is it arm'd with any Power that can weaken and deſtroy it? Is it not eaſy to prove, that this terrible Prerogative of the Crown derives its Power, the very Tenure by which it is held, from the unanimous and concurrent Voice of the Body of the People, who from Time to Time chooſe their Repreſentatives as they think fit, to keep and preſerve it? Is not the Care, the Vigilance, and Circumſpection in both, equally alike to prevent any Aſcendency? Can a King of *Great Britain* act in any important Affair without the joint Concurrence and Authority of his Parliament or Council? can he, I ſay, to the Prejudice of his People, without a manifeſt Breach of his Royal Faith; can he engage himſelf in any Enterprize without his Parliament? Or, if he can, can he raiſe Money to ſupport it, and carry it on without them? Read over the Act of Settlement again, Mr. *D'Anvers*, and I believe you'll find he can't. What is this great Prerogative of the Crown then, which is ſo very dangerous to the Liberties of the People? which cries aloud for Reſtitution and Limitation; or rather to be pared and lopped away by Piece-meal? Why this truly. A Legal Power, which the Lords and Commons of *Great Britain*, the Guardians of the Rights and Privileges of the People, have inveſted their Sovereign with, for the Safety and Protection of his Royal Perſon, and the Defence of his Country in particular Exigencies of State, it is that of making Peace or War, the calling and adjourning of Parliaments, the appointing his principal Officers, and the Judges of his Courts, the creating of Peers and Biſhops, and the nominating other ſubordinate Officers and Magiſtrates, to act for the Peace and Preſervation of his People; and all this he derives from Law, namely, the Laws of his Country, to which he conforms, and ſubmits to be governed, as much as the meaneſt Subject which he rules over and defends: Whence it is humbly preſumed, Mr. *D'Anvers*, that the Prerogative of the King of *Great Britain* is not too great, nor in any ways dangerous to the People, unleſs you would diveſt him of all theſe legal Rights, and level him with the meaneſt Subject of his Dominions; let him have no Power but that of chuſing his own Domeſticks; have him to be merely nominal, and ſubſervient to the captious Humours of an unſteady and unruly People, who are incapable of judging what is conducive to the Intereſt and Glory of their Country. Now, I could almoſt ſwear, that, if the Patron of Mr. *D'Anvers* was but Prime Miniſter, and *himſelf a ſort of one*, that this Prerogative of the Crown would not be thought one Jot too much; but every thing will be thought too much, ſo long as a certain able Gentleman keeps his Place, and retains the Royal Favour. But what Hurt does this Prerogative do the People? It puniſhes the Guilty, and protects the Innocent; cuts off ſuch as are Enemies to human Society, ſuch as would live upon the Spoil of their Neighbours; and ſaves ſuch as make the Laws of their Country the Rule of their Actions, and peaceably and quietly ſubmit thereto; nay, its Mercy often extends ſo far, as to pardon the Renogade, the Traitor, and the Rebel; as to ſpare the Factious and Malignant, who ſwell with Pride, Envy, and Ambition to pull it down and deſtroy it. Is not this true, Mr. *D'Anvers?* evade it if you can. And is it not better to be ſubject to ſuch a Prerogative, than to the Violence of the Strong and Daring, and the Malignancy of the Weak and Wicked? But ſome honeſt People are induced to think, Sir, that you had rather have no Prerogative, no Government, no Law at all, than not ſuch as is ſuitable to your own Genius, ſuch as will ſerve as a Screen for your evil Machinations againſt a Prime Miniſter, whom the Laws of his Country preſerve from the Fury of your Wrath, and the Violence of your Vengeance. But to return to myſelf, that is, to the legiſlative Power, the Parliament of *Great Britain*, of which the King is a Part, and by which he wiſely acts, and tenderly governs his People, makes their Good and Welfare, the Safety and Glory of his Dominions, his principal and ultimate Care: So long therefore as this Power continues, ſo long as Honour, Harmony, and Concord ſubſiſt therein, what Danger are we in of being ruined and undone? Who can injure us but that the Laws of Juſtice, the Voice of Nature, and the Clamours of our Country will cry aloud for Redreſs and Relief? And ſo long as this Power, from time to time, legally devolves again upon the People, when they are their own Maſters, a ſort of petty Kings; ſo long as they have a free Voice to elect what Repreſentatives they pleaſe, they have a Power equal, if not ſuperior, to the Prerogative of the Crown; ſuch an one as is as juſt an Æquilibrium to balance the Conſtitution of theſe Realms, as human Wiſdom and Prudence can deviſe; ſuch as, in ſpight of all the Venom of Envy, and Poiſon of Prejudice, makes us the moſt free and happy People on Earth.

LONDON.

Her Majeſty has been pleaſed to appoint Pierce A-Court, Eſq; Member of Parliament for Heytesbury, to be one of her Equerries, in the room of the Hon. Thomas Hervey, Eſq; who has reſigned, on account of his ill State of Health.

Yeſterday the Duke of Beucleugh, one of the Sixteen Peers of Scotland, ſet out, with a very great Retinue, for his Seat in that Part of Great Britain.

Laſt Sunday died at his Seat near Borrowbriggs in Yorkſhire, Sir William Ramſden, Bart. Father of John Ramſden, Eſq; Member of Parliament for Apulby in Weſtmoreland.

Laſt Sunday Philip Atkinſon of Bromley, Eſq; was married to Miſs Tyler, Daughter of William Tyler of Horſham in Suſſex, Eſq; a young Lady with a Fortune of 6000 l. and 200 l. per Annum.

Their Royal Highneſſes the Prince and Princeſs of Wales were laſt Night at the Theatre in Lincoln's Inn Fields, to ſee the Play of *Alzira*; or, *The Americans*, which was performed by the Company of Comedians from Goodman's Fields. The Play gave the higheſt Satisfaction, and was received with the greateſt Applauſe from the whole Audience.

Laſt Sunday Morning died at his Seat at Bowdley, in the County of Worceſter, Allen Benſon, Eſq; poſſeſſed of an Eſtate of 3000 l. per Annum.

Yeſterday Morning his Grace the Duke of Leeds, who has been very ill for ſome time at his Houſe in St. James's-ſtreet, ſet out with a great Retinue for the Spa at Scarborough, for the Recovery of his Health.

Laſt Sunday Night the Corpſe of Sir George Markham, Bart. was carried from Bath, to be interred at Grantham in Lincolnſhire. We hear Sir George has left his Real Eſtate of 3000 l. per Annum, and his fine Library of Books, valued at 20,000 l. to the Rev. Mr. Wilſon, Vicar of Newark upon Trent, and his Perſonal Eſtate, ſaid to be upwards of 100,000 l. to Mr. Ogle his Nephew.

Laſt Week Gregory White, of Chilton in Hampſhire, Eſq; was married at Southampton, to Madam Cliffard, Relict of the late Edward Cliffard, of that Town, Eſq; a Fortune of 26,000 l.

Colonel Legge is appointed firſt Major and Captain of a Company in the third Regiment of Foot Guards, in the room of Major Darby, deceas'd. And,

Colonel Murray, Brother to the Earl of Dunmore, is appointed ſecond Major and Captain of a Company, in the room of Col. Legge.

Yeſterday the Right Hon. the Counteſs of Lincoln, Mother of the preſent Earl, and Siſter to his Grace the Duke of Newcaſtle, lay very dangerouſly Ill at her Seat at Weybridge in Surry.

Laſt Friday one William Lawſon, a Scotchman, going from Mount Sorrel to Leiceſter, was robbed by two Foot Pads, who riffled his Pack of Money, Lace, Cambrick, Hair, &c. to the Value of 25 l. and afterwards bound him to a Tree, and made off with their Booty undiſcovered.

Laſt Wedneſday Night between 11 and 12 o'Clock, the Cirenceſter Stage Coach coming to London, was ſtopt between the Half way Houſe and Knights-bridge, by three Foot Pads, who took from two of the Paſſengers 3 l. 9 s. When the Coach came to Hyde Park Turnpike, they acquainted the Watchman that they had been robbed, and giving a very remarkable Deſcription of two of the Rogues, who ſoon after came by the Watchman at Hyde Park Corner, he ſeized one of them (the other two making their Eſcape) and Yeſterday he was examined before the Veſtry at St. George's Hanover Square, when he confeſſed that Fact and two others, and alſo impeached two of his Accomplices (both Footmen to Perſons of Quality) after which he was committed to Newgate. 'Tis ſaid he was lately Surgeon's Mate on board one of his Majeſty's Ships of War.

To-morrow his Grace the Duke of Dorſet, together with his Dutcheſs, ſets out from his Houſe at Whitehall, for his Seat at Knowle in Kent, for the remaining Part of the Summer Seaſon.

Laſt Night about 5 o' Clock, the Burlington Man of War was, with great Difficulty, launched at Deptford.

Yeſterday the Right Hon. the Earl of Cholmondeley, Chancellor of the Dutchy Court, ſat in the ſaid Court, and heard ſeveral Cauſes, being aſſiſted by the Right Hon. the Lord Hardwick, and Mr. Baron Carter.

We hear his Majeſty has been pleaſed to appoint Lieutenant Smart to be Captain of a Troop in her Majeſty's Regiment of Horſe commanded by General Evans.

Laſt Saturday William Stephens of St. Albans, kiſſed the Queen's Hand, on his being appointed Captain of an Independent Company at South Carolina.

Yeſterday Mrs. Thomas was brought to the Court of King's Bench, and received the following Judgment for keeping an ill-governed and diſorderly Houſe in Denmark Court, viz. one Year's Impriſonment, and to find Sureties for her good Behaviour for ſeven Years more.

The ſame Day Sir Wolſtone Dixie ſhewed Cauſe why a new Trial ſhould not be had on the Verdict given by the Jury the laſt Term, relating to the falſe

Im-

Imprisonment of Elizabeth Barker, his Servant, for which the Jury gave 5 s. Damages; and after many learned Arguments by Council on both Sides, the Judges gave their Opinions, that a new Trial ought not to be granted.

Yesterday Bank Stock was 149. India 178. South Sea 99 3-4ths. Old Annuity 112 3-4ths to 7-8ths. New ditto, 112 1-half. Three per Cent. 105. Emperor's Loan 118 1-4th to 1-half. Royal-Assurance 110. London-Assurance 14 3-8ths to 1-half. York Buildings 2. African 14 1-half. India Bonds 61. 14 s. to 16 s. Prem. Three per Cent. ditto 5 l. 8 s. Premium. South Sea Bonds 5 l. 18 s. Premium. New Bank Circulation 7 l. 7 s. 6 d. Premium. Salt Tallies 4 to 6 1-4th Prem. English Copper 2 l. 3 s. Welsh ditto, no Price. Three 1-half per Cent. Exchequer Orders 6 1-4th per Cent. Prem. Million Bank 115.

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